

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 17-23 and 32-40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the title, Fig. 13, the specification and claims 17 and 32 are amended, claims 24-31 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 33-40 are added. Support for new claims 33-40 can be found in the specification including the original claims and Figs. 11-18, for example, see page 12, line 23 to page 13, line 7 of the application as filed. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. The Office Action objects to the title. By this Amendment, the title is amended to "METHOD OF MOLDING A REINFORCED NODAL STRUCTURE". Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments obviate the grounds for the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

B. The Office Action objects to the drawings. Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments to the specification obviate the grounds for the objection to the drawings. Further, element 47 is described at page 11, line 30 of the specification, element 48 is added to page 12, line 1 of the specification and Fig. 13 is amended by this Amendment to delete element label 56. The replacement sheet provides a corrected copy of Fig. 13. Express approval of the drawing corrections is respectfully requested. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

C. The Office Action objects to claim 32 for informalities. Applicants respectfully submit the above amendments obviate the grounds for the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 32 is respectfully requested.

D. The Office Action variously rejects claims 17-23 and 32 as listed below in Items (1)-(9) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

- (1) Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over GB 1 373 344 and FR 2 462 266;
- (2) Claims 17-18 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,245,274 to Huybrechts et al. (hereafter "Huybrechts") and FR 2 462 266;
- (3) Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over GB 1 373 344, FR 2 462 266 and U.S. Patent No. 6,073,670 to Koury;
- (4) Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Huybrechts, FR 2 462 266 and Koury;
- (5) Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over GB 1 373 344, FR 2 462 266 and U.S. Patent No. 4,137,354 to Mayes, Jr. et al. (hereafter "Mayes");
- (6) Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Huybrechts, FR 2 462 266 and Mayes;
- (7) Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over GB 1 373 344, FR 2 462 266 and U.S. Patent No. 5,427,725 to White et al. (hereafter "White");
- (8) Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Huybrechts, FR 2 462 266 and White; and
- (9) Claims 17-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,050,315 to Deckers et al. and FR 2 462 266.

Applicants respectfully submit that GB 1 373 344, FR 2 462 266, Huybrechts, Koury, Mayes, White and Deckers, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least features of a method of moulding a reinforced nodal structure which includes laying down a cord reinforcement, incorporating additional fabric inserts into the mould and combinations

thereof as recited in claim 17. Applicants respectfully submit none of the applied references, individually or in combination, teach or suggest any modification to their disclosure that would result in at least features of additional fabric inserts and combinations thereof as recited in claim 17.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit claim 17 defines patentable subject matter. Claim 32 defines patentable subject matter for at least reasons similar to claim 17. Claims 18-23 depend from claim 17 and therefore also define patentable subject matter for at least that reason as well as their additionally recited features. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 17-23 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

E. Claims 33-40 are newly added by this Amendment and believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carl R. Wesolowski**, at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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